



Shadowplay

Editing History and the Cultural Heritage in the Age of AI

Università IULM, Loughborough University-University Museum of Artificial Intelligence Cultures (MAIC), Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford Documentary Film Institute, Universitat de Barcelona, Fondazione Rovati, MEET Digital Culture Center, Società Italiana per lo studio della Storia contemporanea (SISSCO)

A one-day conference aimed at reflecting on the impact of artificial intelligence on the humanities, with particular attention to the representation of time and space in the reconstruction of the past. How might research, teaching, and the dissemination of history, as well as the musealisation and representation of tangible and intangible heritage, be affected by the use of AI? What new paths might emerge, and what risks may arise from its misuse?

The conference will bring together historians, art historians, museologists, archivists, geographers, political scientists, philosophers, and anthropologists, who will take part in a series of panels characterised by a strong inter- and trans-disciplinary approach. Will processes of nation-building, the musealisation of history and art, their interpretation and dissemination, and the relationship between imperialism and postcolonialisms remain unchanged in the age of artificial intelligence?

26 October 2026

Aula Seminari (Seminars room) – IULM 1 building

Program

9.30 am Greetings:

Valentina Garavaglia – Rector of Università IULM

Massimo De Giuseppe – Dean of Arts, Fashion and Tourism Faculty of Università IULM

Marco De Nicolò - President of Società italiana per lo studio della storia contemporanea (SISSCO)



9.45 am Keynote Speech

Alison Kahn (MAIC, Oxford Documentary Film Institute) - *Whose AI? Whose Cultural Heritage? What Does Artificial Intelligence Reveal About the Societies We Are Building?*

10.20 am Coffee Break

10.45 am First Panel: TIME

Kathryn Brown (Loughborough University, Director of AI Museum) – *Creating an AI Art History: Risks and Possibilities*

Jane Cockcroft (Head of Interpretation and Digital Content, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford) - *Take One: AI and the Single Object Exhibition*

Erika Notti (Università IULM) – *New Technologies for the Enhancement of Archaeological and Cultural Heritage: Insights from Mediterranean Case Studies*

Carolina Orsini (MUDEC - Università IULM) - *Whose Voice, Whose Data? Ethnographic Museums and the Postcolonial Promise in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*

Alessandro Pes (Università degli studi di Cagliari) - «Act as an expert historian»: *AI and the Fear of Losing Epistemic Control over Historical Research*

Chair: Massimo De Giuseppe (Università IULM)

1 pm Lunch

2.30 pm Keynote Speech

Luisa Damiano (Università IULM) - *Editing the Future. Philosophy of Science, Social Robotics, and the Possibility of Doing Otherwise*



3.00 pm Second Panel: SPACE

Giovanni Baiocchi (Università IULM) - *The Material Geographies of AI: Territories, Heritages and Conflicts*

Giuliano Gaia (InvisibleStudio - Dedalus Research Center IULM) - *Accessible AI in History Museums: An exploration of AI digital guides supporting blind and low vision communities*

Giacomo Pozzi (Università IULM) - *Reconstructing Cidade Velha: Space, Slavery Heritage, and the Coloniality of Digital Reconstruction in Cape Verde*

Elisabetta Modena (Università IULM) - *AI and Unrealised Art Projects: The Case of Paolo Scheggi's Cannocchiale ottico percorribile (1968)*

Chair: Mauro Ferraresi (IULM)

5.30 pm Roundtable: DIGITAL TREES

Maria Grazia Mattei (presidente MEET) - *Staying Human in the Age of AI*

Federico Da Rold (Università IULM) - *NextGen AI: World Models and the Transition from Creative Assistance to Autonomous Creation*

Giulia Andreini (Università IULM) - *What is Lost in Translation? Intangible Heritage in the Age of AI*

Simona Pezzano (Università IULM) - *From Digital Reproduction to Generative AI: Visual Memory and the Changing Temporalities of the Historical Image*

Hagen Lehman (Università IULM) - *Shadowplay in the Museum and Classroom: Embodied AI and Social Robotics as Mediators of Cultural Memory*

Chair: Emilio Mazza (Università IULM)

Conclusion: Kathryn Brown (Loughborough University)

Scientific Committee: Massimo De Giuseppe, Alison Khan, Kathryn Brown

Organizing Committee: Giovanni Baiocchi, Simona Pezzano